

year ago and has been gradually getting worse. The same thing happens if he wakes in the middle of the night. He sleeps in a room alone and often my husband and I have woken up to hear peals and shouts of laughter. Also he does this when he wakes in the morning, i.e. between 5 and 6 a.m. As I write this down it seems a trivial matter but I don't think it is. It does not seem a natural laughter, and apart from the actual laughing he makes queer growling noises. Once or twice I have asked him what he was laughing at and he says, 'I am laughing at ladies and babies/ and once I asked him why he laughed and he said, 'I can't help it—I must/ "3. "As I have had my little girl of about four giggling in the night, I am wondering if in the other cases it arises from the same cause, that is the sensation caused by 'touching' themselves in their private parts. My nurse had spoken of my little girl's laughing in her sleep, but as she is a very happy little person we thought it was dreams. While my nurse was away, however, she slept with me and I heard her do it, at the same time sucking her thumb. The sound seemed different from an ordinary laugh so I got out to inspect and found that was what it was—really half in her sleep."

4. "I came to her (aged 3;0) when she was eleven months, and the first morning I put her into her pram to sleep, I saw what was happening. For twelve months I took no notice of it, only in an indirect way—giving her an animal to hug, etc. This was alright for a night or two, then it was thrown over-board. She was very highly strung, excitable, irritable, very underweight, pale pinched face and very dark around the eyes. Wherever I went everyone said how ill the child looked. She also had no appetite and her nights were very bad. She would be awake for three or four hours night after night, practising this habit. She has never been scolded or punished for it. The trouble got worse and worse, At the end of the first year I put her into splints. There was a marked improve-

ment in a very short time—her appetite improved, her weight went up, she was altogether happier, and everyone said what a change there was in the child. She slept the night through and with no wet bed. I kept them on for three months, then I left them off and everything went well for two months. Suddenly, I cannot think why, she started it again. I left her without taking any direct notice, Back she went at once to her old ways, you would not credit the difference in the child. I left the splints off for two months, and she looked just as ill as she did when I first saw her. She also lost weight both months. Again I returned to the splints, and she is still wearing them. She asks for her ' long legs' as she calls